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Letter, 1978 December 6, from Eva Jessye to Gene DeGruson

Eva Jessye

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SATURDAY, DEC. 6 —

[1978]

DEAR EIGHT HAND' DE-GRUSON:

Forgive mis-whacks...must have this machine repaired ...but determined to get these few lines off to you . just returned from ten days in NY...such a grand visit with Pearl Bates , TWO daughters and a son-in-law. The latter is steward on a government munitions vessel and ha furnished his large apartment with rare treasures from all over the world. ..you would have a field day in his house. Some day we must visit there together when John Fortune is home from the sea. Hw is a master chef... such delectable foods he can prepare... and there are cabintes with fine wines, whiskeys..and such cordiality...! And to cap it all.. he has a Hammond Organ...two manual...two octave foot manual...and every effect imaginable. There is a friend, a proffssional organist who plays for parties, etc... most exceptional. I had him make a cassette tape which I will copy for you soon... I will also send a copy of the program on Nov second..they want us to repeat it, but I refuse. However, it will be done in two half hour segments for local television. I am now at work on a three-part production...all choral, with of course solos/ spots..and featuring remale trio and male quartet sequences...itwould be a good format for your aggregation. I hope some day to be able to turn over these ideas and music, etc..to you.

I am writing both the president and Br Vollen regarding the organ and perhaps they manage to acquire it...costs less than \$7000...and so remarkable an instrument...more like a theatre organ...

I was astonished to learn from your president that the concert Steinway on which I played is now property of the Univ..also another smaller one. Good!

Now, with the organ, ..all would be complete. I ~~xxx~~ boxing up more books to send, also two huge boxes of costumes, etc for the art dept...much superior to those exhibited on Oct. first...I am determined to strip this place down to bare essentials..which will take SOME DOING, ... I suggest you plan reserving a certain space in the Collectin for materials on black subjects...I will be sending lots related. And do not forget you are to locate Callie Jessie or offspring.. as my link to the Jessie roots

I must write the couple who so kindly went to Oswego and began our search for my grandmother and that side of my family tree...I can never forget it.

Looking back over the events of the past 8 or 9 months...I am convinced that it all was an 'ACT OF GOD'...nothing less. ..and that my life from now on is bound to PSU, inseparably...it was nita a mere 'HAPPENING'...it was destiny at work. who can deny that?

All for the moment..hope your house had a grand thanksgiving and that my greeting arrived in time.

Fondly,

E. J.

When do you think, with the
complete volume of
"Poetry & Other Writings by T. J. J. J."
he planned + published - much to be
done on the material. I can see you
are hundreds of times busier! How can one
little boy man do so much? - t. j. -

[Attachment to letter, 6 December 1978]

Books, records, music

The Aca delegation was impressed - thanks! Contributions to the collection appreciated

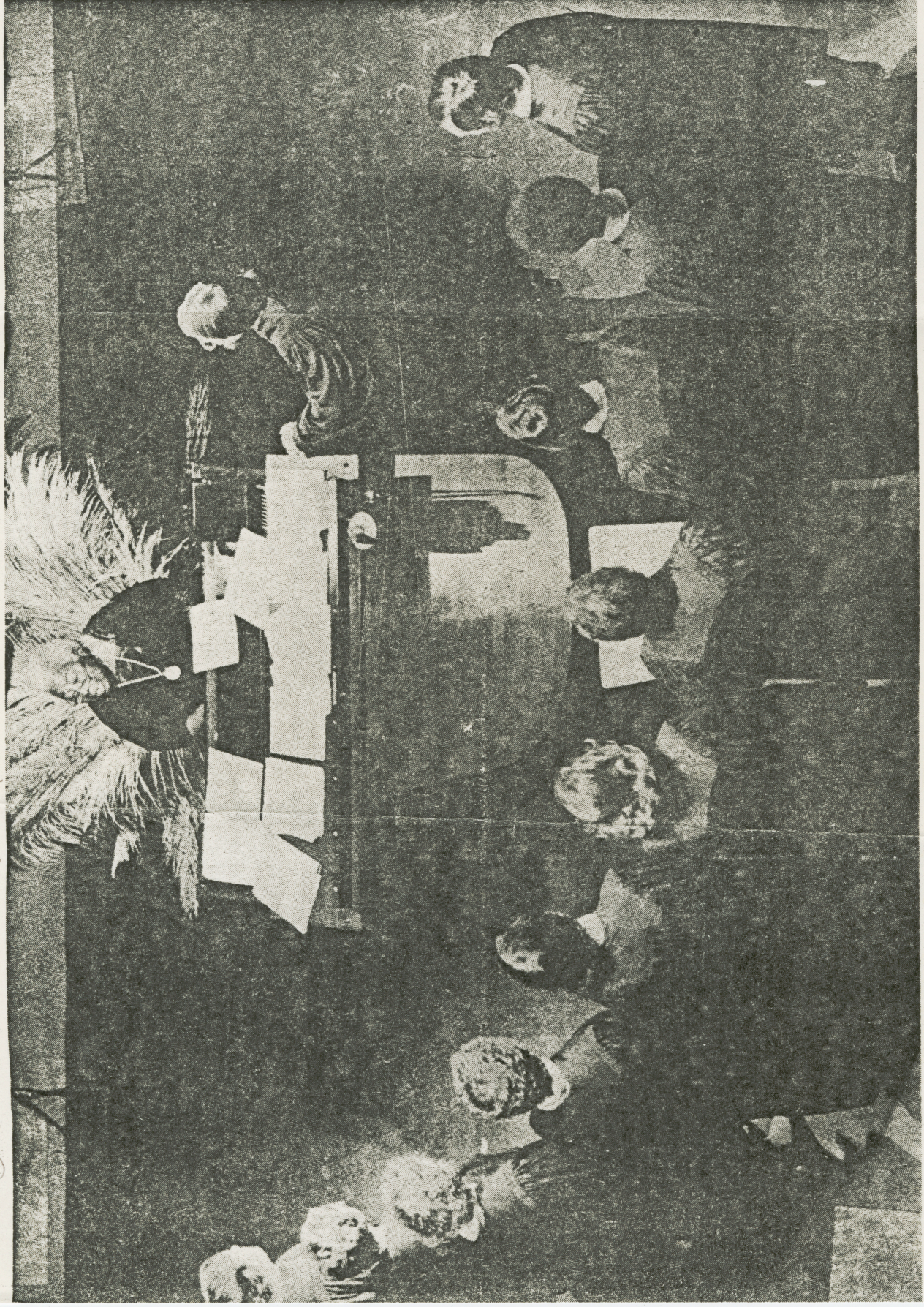


Photo COURTESY OF Rhett Wieland



Photo by Brya

Three farmer students -
all male/girls!

X I was once young & charming!